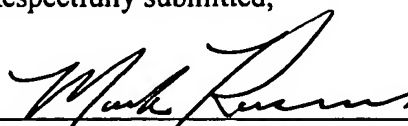## REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

The undersigned wishes to acknowledge with thanks the telephone interview with the Examiner on November 15, 2005. As a follow-up to such interview, and in Response to the Office Action dated September 19, 2005, Applicant hereby submits a Declaration by the inventor, Lee A. Nosbisch.

As indicated in the Declaration, by providing an upper surface profile that is "upwardly bowed" or "arched," refractory bricks set upon the claimed starter set are nearly horizontal at the trailing end of the upper surface profile where the starter set meets horizontal bricks. Such a configuration reduces the likelihood of a gap or crack being formed in the brick lining where the starter set meets the horizontal bricks that line a ladle. As indicated in the Declaration, none of the cited references teaches, suggests or shows starter sets for refractory bricks used in a ladle, wherein the starter set has an upwardly bowed or arched upper surface profile, and further, does not teach, suggest or show the advantages of such a starter set.

It is respectfully requested that the Examiner reconsider the claims in view of the foregoing, and allow the application.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: ___December 6, 2005___

Mark Kusner, Reg. No. 31,115

KUSNER & JAFFE
Highland Place – Suite 310
6151 Wilson Mills Road
Highland Heights, Ohio 44143
(440) 684-1090 (phone)
(440) 684-1095 (fax)

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence (along with any paper referenced as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited on the below date with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to MAIL STOP AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Date:___December 6, 2005___

Christine Goellner